

CLAIMS:

1. A hose comprising a tubular body of flexible material arranged between inner and outer gripping members, wherein the hose further comprises an elongate member having opposing longitudinal edges, the elongate member being helically wound around the tubular body such that the opposing longitudinal edges of the layer are in an adjacent or overlapping arrangement, wherein each longitudinal edge includes a formation capable of interengaging with a cooperating formation on the opposing longitudinal edge.
2. A hose according to claim 1, wherein the interengaging formations are arranged so that, when interengaging, they provide a continuous waterproof seal.
3. A hose according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the interengaging formations extend substantially continuously along the respective edges.
4. A hose according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein each interengaging formation comprises a interengaging arranged along the edge which is shaped to interengaging with the corresponding formation on the opposing edge.
5. A hose according to claim 4, wherein the profiles are such that when the elongate member is being wound around the tubular body, the formation of one of the edges can be pushed into interengaging engagement with the formation of the opposing edge.
6. A hose according to any preceding claim, wherein each interengaging formation comprises an interlocking formation, capable of locking the formations together once they have been brought together.
7. A hose according to claim 6, wherein each interlocking formation is configured to provide a push-fit or a snap fit with the corresponding interlocking formation of the opposing longitudinal edge.

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8. A hose according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the interlocking formations are C-shaped, with the interlocking formation on the opposing edge portions being oriented in an opposite direction, whereby the C-shaped formations can interlock when the elongate member is wound around the tubular body.
9. A hose according to claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the interlocking formation of each longitudinal edge includes a retaining member adapted to cooperate with a corresponding retaining member on the interlocking formation of the opposing longitudinal edge, whereby the interlocking formations are retained in an interlocking relationship by the retaining members.
10. A hose according to claim 9, wherein the retaining member comprises an inwardly directed flange arranged at or near one of the ends of the interlocking formation.
11. A hose according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein each interengaging formation comprises a plurality of projections and recesses, the projections and recesses of one formation being adapted to interengage with the recesses and projections respectively of the formations on the opposing longitudinal edge.
12. A hose according to any preceding claim, wherein elongate member includes at least one closed chamber, the or each chamber has a density lower than that of the rest of the elongate member.
13. A hose according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the elongate member includes at least one closed chamber, the or each chamber containing a gas.
14. A hose according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the elongate member includes at least one closed chamber, the or each chamber a foam or aerated polymer.
15. A hose according to claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein there are two adjacent chambers

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both running longitudinally along substantially the entire length of the elongate member.

16. A hose according to claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein there are a plurality of closed chambers disposed in the elongate member in such a manner as to form a sponge-like structure.

17. A hose according to any preceding claim, wherein the elongate member has a thickness greater than the distance between the longitudinal edges.

18. A hose according to any preceding claim, wherein the inner and/or the outer gripping member is/are provided with an oval or a semi-circular cross-section.

19. A hose according to any preceding claim, wherein the elongate member is corrugated in a direction extending between the longitudinal edges.

20. A hose comprising a tubular body of flexible material arranged between inner and outer gripping members, wherein the hose further comprises an elongate member having opposing longitudinal edges, the elongate member being helically wound around the tubular body such that the opposing longitudinal edges of the layer are in an adjacent or overlapping arrangement, wherein the elongate member has at least one buoyancy chamber therein.

21. A hose comprising a tubular body of flexible material arranged between inner and outer gripping members, wherein the inner and/or outer gripping member is/are provided with a profiled cross-section.

22. A method of making a hose comprising:

- (a) wrapping a wire around a tubular mandrel to form an inner coil;
- (b) wrapping a sheet material around the tubular mandrel and the inner coil order to provide a tubular body formed of the sheet material;
- (c) wrapping a wire around the tubular body to form an outer coil;
- (d) wrapping an elongate member around the outer coil, the elongate

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member having opposing longitudinal edges, each longitudinal edge including a formation capable of interengaging with a cooperating formation on the opposing longitudinal edge, wherein the elongate member is helically wound around the outer coil such that the opposing longitudinal edges of the elongate member are in an adjacent or overlapping arrangement, and bringing the formations on adjacent or overlapping edges into engagement with one another;

- (e) securing the ends of the hose produced in step (d);
- (f) removing the hose from the mandrel.

23. A hose substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

24. A method of making a hose substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.